



Photo by Tim Wirth

Brief History

Located on a promontory above the City of Pacifica with sweeping views from Point Reyes to the Pedro Point Headlands, 105-acre Mori Point is the newest addition to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Originally part of the Spanish San Pedro Land Grant, Mori Point has been the site of many enterprises over the past 120 years. The Mori family, for whom the land is now named, settled in Pacifica in the 1890's and developed a farm on Mori Point. By the 1920's, the primary Mori family business was the Mori Point Tavern. In the 1920's, through the Prohibition years, and on into the 1950's, the roadhouse was a much-loved coastside drinking establishment. By the 1960's, the tavern's business declined, and it burned to the ground in a fire in 1966. Part of Mori Point was also used as a rock quarry, and the remains of a sand dredging operation can still be seen.

Mori Point today is a scenic and natural gem and a key link to the national park-lands of Sweeney and Milagra Ridges, and to the plentiful recreational open space along San Mateo's coast. It is home to the endangered California red-legged frog and San Francisco garter snake, and the rare *Linanthus rosaceus* plant, and is also part of the important Laguna Salada and Calera Creek wetland ecosystems.



Mori Point Tavern (1950s)

Preserving Mori Point

The effort to preserve Mori Point is a success story of community involvement and determination. For nearly two decades, various development proposals--including a 230-unit condominium complex, a hotel and convention center, and even a casino--were successfully opposed by hundreds of Pacifica residents, elected officials, and several nonprofit organizations.

In 2000, Mori Point went up for sale in a public land auction. The Pacifica Land Trust, California Coastal Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land launched a campaign to purchase the land for preservation. After an intense bidding war, the Trust for Public Land succeeded in purchasing the property. Later that year, President Bill Clinton signed legislation, introduced by Congressman Tom Lantos and co-signed by the entire Bay Area delegation, adding Mori Point to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.



Map courtesy of Ben Pease